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The School in Jerusalem is just now in the midst of its summer "intermediate" period between the departure of Dr. and Mrs. Tushingham and their family, and the arrival in September of the new resident director, Dr. James Muilenburg and Mrs. Muilenburg. After some harrassed and hectic days when it was not clear whether the Tushinghams and their caravan would manage to arrive in Beirut

simultaneously with their ship, packing and the details of turning over the administration of the School were completed with a few days of grace. In fact, when the day came for their departure they learned that their ship had been delayed so that there was even time for the Crosses and Tushinghams to make some sorties into the surrounding countryside for a first and last look, respectively, at some believed sites. Finally the stated day arrived, and on July 15th the Tushinghams departed from the Jerusalem airport in the midst of a crowd of their Jerusalem friends who had come out to wish them good-bye and good journey. Word has come from Genoa that they are enjoying their cruise homeward, and we judge that by now they are arriving in Kingston, Canada where Dr. Tushingham will take up his new post at Queen's Theological Seminary.

In the meanwhile, the writer and especially his wife have taken up the reins of the School. Thanks to the competent administration of Dr. Tushingham, and his good counsel during the days when we first took up our duties, our burdens are relatively light and the School in good trim.

My chief work this summer has been with the scrolls and fragments recently found at Khirbet Qumran. The reader will remember that the finds in the area of the Dead Sea have been increasing in scope and variety since the first discoveries in 1947. Touched off by the discovery of the first Qumran cave and its fabulous contents, the seven hundred or more Bedu of the Ta'amireh tribe have been scouring the desert -- with the police and archaeologists in hot pursuit -- with the result that by purchase and excavation undreamed of hoards of leather and papyrus documents, all in fragments, continue to come in from the Wilderness of Judah. As a matter of fact, the chief problem has not been lack of available material to buy or excavate, but the limitation of funds to secure the materials coming in. And it has been only through heroic efforts of Mr. Harding, Père de Vaux, and Mr. Yusif Sa'ad that so much of this priceless material is now safely in Jordan's museums.

So far the documents form four main groupings: those from the immediate area of Qumran, those from the caves of Wady Murabba'at (Darajeh), those from Khirbet Mird (near Deir Mar Saba), and those from an area in the same general vicinity not yet identified. The latter group and the materials from Wady Murabba'at come for the most part from the second century after Christ. The Murabba'at documents first began to come to light in the winter of 1951, and the caves were excavated under the most adverse conditions in the early spring of 1952. The first reports of this work will be found in the articles of Père de Vaux ("Les grottes de Murabba'at et leur documents," RB 60, 1953, pp. 245 ff.) and Mr. G.L.H. Harding (Khirbet Qumran and

Wady Murabba'at," PEQ 84, 1952, pp.104 ff.). Noteworthy among these documents are a papyrus palimpsest with an under-writing perhaps as early as the sixth century B.C., and an overwriting dating scarcely later than the fifth; dated documents of the Second Jewish Revolt including personal letters of Simon bar Kakhba; and biblical documents of the same period. Among the many important aspects of these materials is their interest paleographically. Being precisely dated, and of the same genre and general provenience as the Qumran scrolls, these fragments written in a script evolved far beyond that of the Qumran scrolls render absolutely impossible any dating of the latest of the Qumran materials after the First Revolt of A.D.70, and deftly give the coup de grace to any lingering doubts as to the accuracy of the paleographic methods which first established the early date of the scrolls. In fact, it is necessary in light of these finds to press the earliest of the Qumran documents well back into the second century B.C. in line with the earliest dates of Albright, Birnbaum, DeVaux and others. The materials from Khirbet Mird bought from Bedu, and recovered in the work of the Belgian expedition this past spring, come mostly from the fifth to eighth centuries of our era. They include biblical documents of the Old and especially of the New Testament in Greek and Syriac. The magnificent scrolls from the Qumran area found in 1947 are well-known. Newer finds, however, threaten to eclipse even these materials both in variety and importance, if not in state of preservation. The work at Murabba'at in the spring of 1952 was halted with the report of new MSS coming out of Qumran. There followed the expedition of the École Biblique, the Palestine Archaeological Museum, and the American School which found the Bronze Scrolls, as well as some fragments. Two other caves exploited by the Bedu have come to light more recently. The most important of these has been designated now, Cave Four (4Q). It is situated a stone's throw to the south of the Khirbet Qumran and consists of chambers hollowed out in the soft marl of a ravine which cuts the plateau on which the Khirbeh is located just at the junction of the ravine with the main bed of the Wady Qumran. The clandestine excavations were brought to a halt as soon as the place became certainly known, and in September last, the Ecole Biblique, Department of Antiquities, and the Palestine Archaeological Museum began excavations. The produce of the cave including both materials bought by the Department of Antiquities, and recovered in process of authorized excavations comprises the largest single set of finds to date.

Our work has been thus far with the excavated materials of the fourth cave at Qumran. Some thirteen different biblical books have been identified thus far, represented by fragments of several different manuscripts in most cases (especially of the Pentateuch, Psalms, and the Major Prophets). But more than half of the material is non-biblical including Apocryphal, Pseudepigraphical, and Sectarian works, as well as unknown works. Quantities of material in Palaeo-Hebrew script are included as well as fragments in "square" character which appear to antedate even the great Isaiah scroll of the earlier finds. It is becoming increasingly difficult to suppose that the Palaeo-Hebrew script here represented is identical with the archaizing script of the Hasmonean period (or the Samaritan script which is a branch of the latter); the writer would be reluctant, however, to press for a date much earlier than the third century B.C., and the question remains much in the air.

I am much in the debt of Mr. Harding who has made possible the part of the School in the work on the scrolls, and to Père de Vaux and Père Milik who have introduced me to the work and given their patient guidance and help. Mr. Joseph Sa'ad of the Museum has placed all the resources of the Museum at our command and has personally been most helpful. It must be underlined that the excavated materials described above are only a fraction of the entire material from the fourth cave, and it is most probable that this one cave will yield fragments of nearly all the books of the Old Testament as well as a comprehensive cross-section of the non-canonical literature in the hands of the Essenes in the last two centuries B.C.

Khirbet Qumran underwent a second season of excavation this year (February 9-April 24) as already reported in previous newsletters. Thanks to the kindness of Père de Vaux, we are able to report some interesting results of his work. The excavation in the winter of 1951, which was limited in scope, found evidence for occupation of the community center of the Essenes in the last century B.C. and in the years preceeding the First Revolt. This year the excavations were much more extensive, opening up most of the Khirbeh. The complex of the community center seems to have had three phases of occupation: one which came to an end in a violent earthquake (vividly recorded, for example, in great cracks, crevasses, and shifted levels in the main cistern), a second which comes down to the first Jewish revolt, and a brief reoccupation of the buildings as a military barracks in the time of the Second Revolt. Coins of the first period of occupation run back to the times of John Hyrcanus (135-104 B.C.), and it seems clear that the site was occupied more or less continually from early Maccabean times until A.D. 70. Archaeological evidence ties the written documents of the area with the earlier settlements. Among the most interesting discoveries is the large hall whose second floor held the scriptorium of the community. A long plaster table and bench specially designed for scribal work, inkpots, and a low plaster shelf and basin which may have been used for ritual washings before the scribe engaged in work on sacred scrolls, were all recovered and are presently on display in the Palestine Museum. We are all anxiously awaiting the preliminary publication of this year's dig, and another season when Père de Vaux will carry on his splendid work.

Among a number of trips which we have taken this summer, one of the most exciting was a trip to Samaria with Mr. 'Awni Dajani, the Inspector of Antiquities in the area west of the Jordan. While on route he learned of a sarcophagus partly uncovered by a farmer at Khirbet Naqb, northeast of Beit 'Umrin. So Mr. Dajani with me at his heels detoured directly to the site and discovered a fine, carved sarcophagus of Roman design. The sarcophagus discovered-is-a-fine,-carved-sarcophagus is not an unusual one, but being the first adventure of the sort for the writer, will stand as one of the most important ever found in Palestine (in his opinion!)

There has been a steady stream of guests and visitors at the School this past month. A delegation of the American Friends of the Middle East, fourteen strong, stayed at the School from July 28 to August 4. Mrs. Katy Antonius of Jerusalem arranged an excellent series of seminars and lectures for the group by distinguished Arab leaders. The tour was led by Miss Phyllis Van Horn and Miss Nancy Evans, staff members of the AFME and Prof. and Mrs. George A. Clark of Lafayette College. We were especially pleased to renew our friendship with the Rev. Frederick Moriarty, S.J., a member of the group who was a fellow-student at Johns Hopkins. Apparently this is a season for Presbyterian clergymen in Jordan. In any case there has been a suspiciously large number of my fellow Presbyterians here this month. Messrs. George Ogilvy, William Phipps, Frank Farrell, and Ellsworth Jackson Jr., American divinity students at Edinburg, Scotland have stayed at the School. Drs. E.D. Wither- spoon and James Sprunt, Presbyterian pastors from North Carolina, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Walker of Evanston, Ill. and McCormick Theological Seminary, and Dr. Leon Sanbourne of Berea, Ky. have also been our guests. Other than American Friends and Presbyterian clergymen, we have had visits from the Rev. Omar N. Barth, Mr. John Plank, and Miss Diana Kirkbride. Miss Kirkbride is continuing the work of reconstructing ancient Jerash, the only "live" archaeological site in Jordan this summer. The staff of the School has managed very well this summer in spite of some crises. Wadi'ah Jiryis, our competent housekeeper underwent a major operation in July. She is nearly well again, and we hope to see her back with us by early fall. 'Omar Jibrin, the School's major domo was recently married and took a two-weeks wedding trip in July. 'Imran 'Abdo, our faithful driver & mechanic has recently added chicken-farming to his numerous skills. The summer's repairs and the painting of the School are completed, and the library is getting its annual cleaning & inventory.

Frank M. Cross Jr., Acting Director.